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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231

Case Docket No. PHD 99,130

A

Enclosed for filing is the patent application of Inventor(s):
Volker Rasche Michael Grab

For: METHOD OF AND DEVICE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE DATA SET
OF A PERIODICALLY ORGAN OF THE BODY

ENCLOSED ARE:

- ☒ Associate Power of Attorney;
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed therein;
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment;
- ☒ Specification (14 Pages of Specification, Claims, & Abstract);
- ☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney:
(1 Page of a ☐ fully executed ☒ unsigned Declaration);
- ☒ Drawing (3 sheets of ☐ informal ☒ formal sheets);
- ☒ Certified copy of GERMAN application Serial No. 19946092.2;
- ☒ Authorization Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3)
- ☒ Other: RELATED CASES;
- ☐ Assignment to *



FEE COMPUTATION

CLAIMS AS FILED				
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	BASIC FEE - \$690.00
Total Claims	17- 20 =	0	X \$18 =	0.00
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	0	X \$78 =	0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims, if any			\$260 =	0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE			=	\$690.00

Please charge Deposit Account No. 14-1270 in the amount of the total filing fee indicated above, plus any deficiencies. The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required, except the issue fee, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 14-1270.

☐ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: This is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. , filed .

[Signature]

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914-333-9627

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Volker Rasche et al.

Atty. Docket
PHD 99,130

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

METHOD OF AND DEVICE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE
DATA SET OF A PERIODICALLY ORGAN OF THE BODY

Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please
amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before line 1, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--;

Page 1, before line 5, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;

Page 4, before line 20, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--;

Page 4, before line 30, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

claim 10, line 1, change "claim 6, 8 or 9," to --claim 6--.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Page 11, before line 1, delete in its entirety and substitute the
following heading: --ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE--;
last line, delete "Fig. 1".

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the application
in proper U.S. format. Entry is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Method of and device for the acquisition of a three-dimensional image data set of a periodically organ of the body

The invention relates to a method of acquiring a three-dimensional image data set of a periodically moving organ of the body of a patient as disclosed in the introductory part of claim 1, as well as to an X-ray device, notably for carrying out such a method, as disclosed in the introductory part of claim 12.

5 For the acquisition of a three-dimensional image data set of an object by means of an X-ray device it is necessary to acquire a plurality of sets of projection data from different X-ray positions and to calculate therefrom, while using a suitable reconstruction algorithm, the three-dimensional image data set wherefrom a desired image of the object can be formed. The quality of such an image is dependent notably on how many projection data
10 sets are acquired, that is, on the number of different X-ray positions wherefrom acquisition takes place, on the level of the contrast between the object to be imaged and its environment, as well as on the amount of motion of the object during the acquisition of the sets of projection data. All of said factors could give rise to disturbing artifacts in the image to be formed.

15 The problem of inadequate contrast can be solved, for example by means of a contrast medium. For example, when images of the coronary vessels are to be formed, a contrast medium can be injected therein by means of a catheter; this medium remains in the coronary vessels for approximately 4 seconds, so that in the projection data sets acquired during this period of time these vessels exhibit a high contrast relative to their environment.
20 However, at present it is not possible to acquire during this period of time all the sets of projection data necessary for the acquisition of a three-dimensional image data set, so that it is necessary to inject contrast medium a number of times in succession and to acquire projection data sets successively during a plurality of X-ray cycles. However, a further problem is then encountered in that the heart pulsates continuously, that is, that it performs an
25 eigenmotion, and that, moreover, the heart is moved to and fro due to the respiratory motion of the patient. Other organs of interest in the body, for example the liver or the brain, also move periodically, notably because of the pulsating motion of the heart and the respiratory motion of the patient. Consequently, the projection data sets acquired contain information on

the relevant organ of the body examined in different phases of motion, so that a three-dimensional image data set determined from such projection data sets contains artifacts.

5 US 5,383,231 discloses a computed tomography (CT) system in which the projection data sets are acquired during a helical scanning motion of the X-ray source and the X-ray detector about the patient. At the same time, and independently therefrom, an electrocardiogram of the patient is recorded, the data of said electrocardiogram being used during the formation of the CT images and a three-dimensional image data set from the
10 projection data sets so as to take into account the displacement of the patient table during the acquisition of the projection data sets and to evaluate exclusively the projection data sets acquired during a given phase of the cardiac motion. In order to realize a three-dimensional image data set therein, however, it is first necessary to calculate CT image data sets from the projection data sets; a three-dimensional image data set can be formed therefrom by
15 means of interpolation algorithms. Furthermore, no direct and immediate link is provided between the acquisition of the electrocardiogram and the acquisition of the projection data sets by means of the X-ray device, so that a series of projection data sets which have been acquired during the wrong cardiac motion phase are not evaluated.

20 It is an object of the present invention to improve the described method and the described X-ray device, notably to simplify the construction of such an X-ray device and to enable the data processing within a shorter period of time while exposing the patient to an as small as possible radiation dose, and to achieve an as high as possible image quality.

25 This object is achieved by means of a method as claimed in claim 1 and an X-ray device as claimed in claim 12.

Granted, it is in principle possible to reduce the number of X-ray positions and the number of projection data sets to be acquired and to replace individual projection data sets by interpolated data. However, this always degrades the image quality and such a
30 reduction of the acquired data can be continued to a given lower limit only; below this limit various effects during the data processing, for example the effect of superposition which is due to an insufficient sampling rate, make the formation of a three-dimensional image data set hardly possible or even impossible. Therefore, in accordance with the invention a projection data set of the body organ to be examined is acquired in each X-ray position

necessary for the acquisition of a three-dimensional image data set, that is, each time during a low-motion phase of the periodically moving body organ. The periodically moving body organ may at the same time be the body organ to be examined or a body organ which induces a likewise periodic motion of the body organ to be examined (for example, the body organ to be examined may be the brain whose periodic motion is linked to the periodic motion of the heart in such a manner that the brain performs a motion with the same period as the heart). The motion signal acquired at the same time is used to control the X-ray device and the data acquisition according to the invention. The acquisition of the projection data sets need not take place in the sequence of the successively occupied X-ray positions; it is also possible to occupy individual X-ray positions, or all X-ray positions, several times, each time a respective projection data set being acquired and it merely being necessary to ensure that at least one projection data set is acquired during a low-motion phase in each X-ray position.

Various attractive versions of the method according to the invention and various attractive embodiments of the X-ray device according to the invention are disclosed in the dependent claims.

It is particularly advantageous to use versions in which a respiratory motion signal which is dependent on the respiration of the patient and/or a cardiac motion signal which is dependent on the motion of the heart, notably an electrocardiogram, are acquired. The choice as to which of these signals is acquired and used for the control of the X-ray device and the data acquisition is dependent notably on what influences the motion of the body organ to be examined. For example, when the heart is considered, we find that it performs a rotational as well as a translational motion. In the systolic phase, in which the ventricles contract and discharge the blood from the heart, the motion is more pronounced than in the diastolic phase in which the ventricles are slowly filled with blood again and the heart expands. On this eigenmotion of the heart there is superposed the respiratory motion, because the heart is shifted towards the head of the patient and is tilted slightly towards the back during inhalation, whereas it returns to the original position during exhalation.

Therefore, in further versions of the invention there is also acquired a respiratory motion signal which is dependent on the respiratory motion of the patient and on the basis thereof projection data sets are selected so as to determine the three-dimensional image data set, all of such projection data sets having been acquired during the same respiratory motion phase, for example in the state of exhalation. The respiratory motion signal can also be used to process projection data sets which have been acquired in different respiratory motion phases so as to form the three-dimensional image data set, the position

shifts of the body organ to be examined then being corrected for on the basis of the respiratory motion. This implies, for example, that the motion or the position of the body organ is known in each respiratory motion phase or that it can be assumed to be a model.

In a further version of the invention the respiratory motion signal can be used to inform the patient that a desired respiratory motion phase has been reached, for example, the state of exhalation, so that the patient can hold his or her breath for as long as possible during this phase of respiratory motion and as many projection data sets as possible can be acquired from different X-ray positions during this time.

A cardiac motion signal as acquired in versions of the invention can be used to acquire the projection data sets for the formation of the three-dimensional image data sets exclusively during the diastolic phase of the cardiac motion in which the motion of the heart is significantly less than in the systolic phase, or to acquire projection data sets exclusively when the heart is exactly in the diastolic phase. Projection data sets acquired in the systolic phase are then either not used further or even are not acquired at all; the X-ray device can be controlled accordingly for this purpose.

Advantageous embodiments of the means for measuring the motion signal are disclosed in the claims 13 to 17.

The invention will be described in detail hereinafter with reference to the drawings. Therein:

Fig. 1 shows an X-ray device according to the invention,

Fig. 2 illustrates different X-ray positions during an X-ray cycle,

Fig. 3 shows a time diagram of a cardiac motion signal in order to illustrate the acquisition of the projection data sets according to the invention,

Fig. 4 shows a further time diagram of a cardiac motion signal in order to illustrate a further version of the method according to the invention, and

Fig. 5 shows a time diagram of a respiratory motion signal.

The X-ray device 1 shown in Fig. 1 includes an X-ray tube 2 and a two-dimensional X-ray detector 3, for example an image intensifier, which are mounted on a C-arm 4 in such a manner that they are arranged so as to be rotatable about the z axis and around a patient 5 and can be tilted about an axis extending perpendicularly thereto. The X-

ray device 1 and the processing of the data acquired by means of the X-ray detector 3 are controlled by the control and arithmetic unit 6. Electrodes 7 which are connected to an electrocardiography device 8 are arranged on the chest of a patient 5 in order to record an electrocardiogram of the patient. The respiratory motion of the patient 5 is measured by means of an abdominal belt 9 which can be distorted by the respiratory motion and is connected to a respiratory motion measuring device 10 in order to form a respiratory motion signal. The electrocardiogram and the respiratory motion signal are conducted on-line to the control and arithmetic unit 6 by the electrocardiography device 8 and the respiratory motion measuring device 10, respectively, in order to be taken into account directly during the control of the X-ray device 1 and the data acquisition.

In the case shown the X-ray device 1 occupies an X-ray position for the acquisition of a projection data set of the heart 11. In order to enable acquisition, during the same respiratory motion phase, of all projection data sets required for the formation of a three-dimensional image data set, the embodiment shown is provided with a signal device 12 which informs the patient 5 that a desired respiratory motion phase has been reached, that is, for example, the state of exhalation, so that the patient can hold his or her breath for as long as possible. During this period projection data sets of the heart 11 can be acquired from different X-ray positions, without a motion due to the respiratory motion of the patient 5 being superposed on the eigenmotion of the heart 11.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along the line A-A'. This Figure shows symbolically the X-ray positions p_0 to p_{16} which are situated on a semi-circular arc and are successively occupied by the X-ray tube 2 so as to acquire a respective projection data set. In order to obtain a three-dimensional image data set wherefrom desired representations of the heart can be formed, for example, individual slice images or images of the coronary vessels, it is necessary to acquire a respective projection data set in each of the X-ray positions p_0 to p_{16} shown, the number of X-ray positions shown being chosen so as to be small for the sake of simplicity.

In order to take into account the fact that the heart 11 performs an eigenmotion during the acquisition of the projection data sets, in one embodiment of the invention an electrocardiogram H as shown in Fig. 3 is measured as a motion signal simultaneously with the acquisition of the projection data sets. The individual instants t_0, t_1, \dots, t_{16} are marked on a time base which is shown underneath the electrocardiogram H; the X-ray tube is situated in the X-ray positions p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16} at these instants at which a respective projection data set D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16} is acquired. As is clearly shown in Fig. 3, each time two projection data sets ($D_0,$

$D_1; D_4, D_5; \dots$) have been acquired during the low-motion phase H_1 (diastolic phase) whereas each time two other projection data sets ($D_2, D_3, D_6, D_7; \dots$) have been acquired during a high-motion phase H_2 (systolic phase). In order to ensure high quality, artifact-free images of the heart, the projection data sets ($D_2, D_3, D_6, D_7, \dots$), acquired during the high-motion phases

- 5 H_2 cannot be used for the acquisition of the three-dimensional image data set. The remaining, usable projection data sets ($D_0, D_1, D_4, D_5, \dots$), however, are not sufficient for the reconstruction of a three-dimensional data set of adequate quality. Therefore, all X-ray positions p_0 to p_{16} are successively occupied a number of times during respective X-ray cycles, each X-ray cycle commencing at a different instant within a cardiac cycle as will be
- 10 explained with reference to Fig. 4.

During a first X-ray cycle R_1 (see third time base in Fig. 4) first the X-ray positions p_0 to p_{16} are successively occupied, only the projection data sets $D_0, D_1, D_4, D_5, \dots, D_{16}$ acquired during the low-motion phases H_1 being usable. The first X-ray cycle R_1

- commences at the instant t_0 at the beginning of a low-motion phase H_1 . After a time interval,
- 15 for example, necessary to move the X-ray device to the initial position again, a second X-ray cycle R_2 commences at an instant t'_0 which corresponds approximately to the beginning of a high-motion phase H_2 . In the X-ray position p_2 at the instant t'_2 the X-ray tube is in a low-motion phase H_1 again, so that the projection data set D_2 acquired at this instant (either not acquired during the first X-ray cycle R_1 or not usable if it was acquired) can be used so as to
- 20 form the three-dimensional image data set. The same holds for the further projection data sets $D_3, D_6, D_7, D_{10}, \dots$, acquired during the second X-ray cycle R_2 ; these sets are then all acquired during low-motion phases H_1 . Such control of the start of the individual X-ray cycles ensures that a projection data set D_0 to D_{16} which has been acquired in a low-motion phase H_1 in every X-ray position and is suitable to derive a three-dimensional image data set therefrom
- 25 will be available after two X-ray cycles.

The acquisition of the projection data sets in the individual X-ray cycles R_1, R_2 can be performed in such a manner that a respective projection data set D_0 to D_{16} is acquired in each of the X-ray positions p_0 to p_{16} occupied by the X-ray source, be it that only the projection data sets acquired during the low-motion phases H_1 ($D_0, D_1, D_4, D_5, \dots$ in the first

30 X-ray cycle; $D_2, D_3, D_6, D_7, \dots$ in the second X-ray cycle) are used. In an alternative version, however, it may also be arranged that projection data sets are acquired exclusively in low-motion phases H_1 , all X-ray positions p_0 to p_{16} being continuously traversed nevertheless. This means that in the first X-ray cycle, for example, the positions p_2 and p_3 are occupied by the X-ray tube in a high-motion phase H_2 , but no projection data set is acquired therein, for

example, because the X-ray tube remains switched off in these positions. It appears from the lowermost time base in Fig. 4 that in this embodiment of the invention the X-ray tube is switched on only during the low-motion phases H_1 and that it remains switched off in the high-motion phases H_2 . Such switching-on and off of the X-ray tube is controlled on the basis of the electrocardiogram H. This offers the advantage that the patient is not unnecessarily exposed to X-rays during high-motion phases H_2 .

In the version of the method according to the invention which has been described with reference to Fig. 4 all necessary projection data sets D_0 to D_{16} can be acquired within two X-ray cycles. However, this need not necessarily be so; a larger number of X-ray cycles may also be required, depending on the ratio of the duration of the low-motion phase H_1 to the duration of the high-motion phase H_2 . For example, when the low-motion phase H_1 is very short whereas the high-motion phase H_2 is very long, definitely more than two X-ray cycles will be required.

Alternatively, the X-ray device can also be controlled in such a manner that the individual X-ray positions p_0 to p_{16} are individually occupied in succession, that in each X-ray position it is tested, on the basis of the motion signal, whether at that instant a low-motion phase is concerned, and that in the positive case a projection data set is acquired whereas in the negative case the occurrence of a low-motion phase is awaited in this X-ray position, the projection data set being acquired in this X-ray position only when such a low-motion phase has been reached. The occupation of the X-ray positions and the acquisition of the projection data can also be triggered on the basis of the motion signal in such a manner that the X-ray source is always present in a new X-ray position at a fixed instant within a given phase of motion and that at the same time a correction data set is acquired so that all projection data sets are acquired at the same instant within a phase of motion.

Fig. 5 shows a time diagram illustrating a respiratory motion signal B which has been acquired by means of an abdominal belt 9 (shown in Fig. 1) and a respiratory motion measuring device 10. This Figure shows the motion of the diaphragm of the patient 5 in the z direction. It can be seen that the motion of the diaphragm is also periodical, that in the state of exhalation B_1 and the state of inhalation B_3 rather low-motion phases are reached whereas rather high-motion phases B_2 occur therebetween during inhalation and exhalation. This respiratory motion signal can be used in the same way as the cardiac motion signal H described with reference to the Figs. 3 and 4, for example, in that projection data sets are acquired exclusively during the low-motion phases B_1 and the X-ray device is controlled accordingly. Moreover, such a respiratory motion signal can also be acquired in addition to

the cardiac motion signal in order to evaluate exclusively projection data sets which have been acquired during low-motion phases H_1 of the heart and also during a low-motion phase B_1, B_3 of the respiratory motion. Preferably, projection data sets are then selected which have been acquired during the same respiratory motion phase, for example, all in the state of exhalation, in order to avoid an often difficult correction (leading to inaccuracies) for the different positions of the body object to be examined in the state of inhalation and in the state of exhalation, respectively. The X-ray device can also be deliberately controlled on the basis of the respiratory motion signal and the cardiac motion signal in such a manner that individual X-ray positions are occupied in order to acquire a projection data set therein which is still missing or has been acquired in the wrong phase of motion.

Depending on the relevant application, in order to achieve adequate contrast between the body organ to be examined and its vicinity it may be necessary to administer a contrast medium to the patient briefly before the acquisition of the projection data sets. This is necessary, for example, in the case of examinations of the coronary vessels. However, because this contrast medium remains in the body organ to be examined for only a given period of time, for example approximately 4 seconds in the coronary vessels, and the duration of a single X-ray cycle is already longer (for example, from 6 to 9 seconds in the case of X-ray positions distributed through an angular range of 180° around the patient), and because a contrast medium cannot be administered arbitrarily often because of the load it represents to the patient, for such applications it is necessary to configure the method according to the invention in such a manner that the acquisition of the necessary projection data sets can take place in as short a period of time as possible. Which of the described versions is selected, however, is then dependent essentially on the applications for which the method is to be used, on the number of projection data sets required for the formation of a three-dimensional image data set for the relevant application, on the speed of acquisition of an individual projection data set or on the speed at which the individual X-ray positions can be reached, and on the ratio of the duration of a low-motion phase to the duration of a high-motion phase.

The means for measuring the cardiac motion signal and the respiratory motion signal as shown in Fig. 1 are given merely by way of example. For example, the cardiac motion signal can also be measured indirectly by means of a pulse oxymetry device whereas the measurement of the respiratory motion signal can also be performed by means of an ultrasound device or a resistance measuring device for measuring the electrical resistance of the abdominal region of the patient. Other means are also feasible in this respect. The X-ray tube and the X-ray detector may also have a different construction or be arranged in a

different way. Instead of an image intensifier, a flat two-dimensional digital X-ray detector may be used and instead of a C-arm with X-ray tube and X-ray detector it is in principle also possible to use a computed tomography device configured in accordance with the invention.

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CLAIMS:

1. A method of acquiring a three-dimensional image data set of a periodically moving organ (11) of the body of a patient (5) by means of an X-ray device (1) which includes an X-ray source (2) and an X-ray detector (3), a motion signal (H, B) which is related to the periodic motion of the body organ (11) being acquired simultaneously with the acquisition of projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}), characterized in that the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) required for the formation of the three-dimensional image data set are successively acquired from different X-ray positions (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16}) which are situated in one plane, that the X-ray device is controlled by means of the motion signal (H, B) in such a manner that a projection data set (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) is acquired during a low-motion phase of the body organ (11) in each X-ray position (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16}) required for the formation of the three-dimensional image data set, and that the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) acquired during the low-motion phases are used for the formation of the three-dimensional image data set.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that only the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) that have been acquired during the same motion phases (H_1, B_1) are selected and used.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the various X-ray positions (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16}) are successively occupied in an X-ray cycle (R_1), that a plurality of X-ray cycles (R_1, R_2) are successively completed, and that the X-ray device (1) is controlled by means of the motion signal (H, B) in such a manner that each X-ray cycle (R_1, R_2) commences in a different phase of motion ($H_1, H_2; B_1, B_2, B_3$) of the body organ (11).
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the X-ray device (1) is controlled by means of the motion signal (H, B) in such a manner that projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) are acquired only during low-motion phases ($H_1; B_1, B_3$) of the body organ (11).

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the X-ray device (1) is controlled by means of the motion signal (H, B) in such a manner that the X-ray source (2) is switched on so as to acquire projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) exclusively during low-motion phases (H_1, B_1, B_3) of the body organ (11).

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a respiratory motion signal (B) which is dependent on the patient's respiration is acquired as a motion signal.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a cardiac motion signal (H), notably an electrocardiogram, which is dependent on the motion of the heart is acquired as the motion signal.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that in addition to the cardiac motion signal (H) there is acquired a respiratory motion signal (B) which is dependent on the respiratory motion, and that the respiratory motion signal (B) is used to ensure that only the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) that have been acquired during the same respiratory motion phases (B_1) are used to form the three-dimensional image data set.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the respiratory motion signal (B) is used to correct, during the formation of the three-dimensional image data set, the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) that have been acquired in different respiratory motion phases (B_1, B_2, B_3) and the shifts in position of the body organ (11) resulting therefrom.

10. A method as claimed in claim 6, 8 or 9, characterized in that the respiratory motion signal (B) is used to inform the patient (5) that a desired respiratory motion phase (B_1) has been reached during which the acquisition of the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) takes place.

11. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the motion signal (H, B) is used to control the X-ray device (1) in such a manner that projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) are acquired from individual, selected X-ray positions (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16}).

12. An X-ray device, notably for carrying out the method claimed in claim 1, which includes an X-ray source (2) and an X-ray detector (3) for the acquisition of a plurality

of projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) from different X-ray positions (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16}) and for the formation of a three-dimensional image data set of a periodically moving organ (11) of the body of a patient (5) from the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}), and also includes means (7, 8, 9, 10) for measuring a motion signal (H, B) which is related to the periodic motion of the body organ (11) and is acquired simultaneously with the acquisition of the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}), characterized in that there is provided an arithmetic and control unit (6) for controlling the X-ray device (1) and for forming the three-dimensional image data set in such a manner that the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) required for the formation of the three-dimensional image data set are successively acquired from different X-ray positions (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16}) which are situated in one plane, that a projection data set (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) is acquired during a low-motion phase of the body organ (11) in each X-ray position (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16}) required for the formation of the three-dimensional image data set, and that exclusively the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) acquired during the low-motion phases are used for the formation of the three-dimensional image data set.

13. An X-ray device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the means (7, 8) for measuring the motion signal are arranged to measure a cardiac motion signal (H) which is dependent on the cardiac motion.

14. An X-ray device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the means (7, 8) for measuring the cardiac motion signal (H) include an electrocardiography device or a pulse oxymetry device.

15. An X-ray device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the means (9, 10) for measuring the motion signal are arranged to measure a respiratory motion signal (B) which is dependent on the respiratory motion.

16. An X-ray device as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that there is provided a signaling device (12) for informing the patient that a desired respiratory motion phase (B_1) has been reached.

17. An X-ray device as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the means (9, 10) for measuring the respiratory motion signal (B) include an ultrasound device, an

abdominal belt for measuring the motion of the diaphragm, or a resistance measuring device for measuring the resistance of the abdominal region of the patient (5).

ABSTRACT:

The invention relates to a method of and a device for the formation of a three-dimensional image data set of a periodically moving body organ (11) of a patient (5) by means of an X-ray device (1) which includes an X-ray source and an X-ray detector (3), a motion signal (H, B) which is related to the periodic motion of the body organ (11) being measured simultaneously with the acquisition of the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}). In order to improve such a method or such a device, notably in order to improve the construction and to reduce the time required for data processing while keeping the radiation dose for the patient as small as possible and while ensuring an as high as possible image quality, the invention proposes to acquire the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) necessary for the formation of the three-dimensional image data set successively from different X-ray positions (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16}) which are situated in one plane, to control the X-ray device by means of the motion signal (H, B) in such a manner that a projection data set (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) is acquired during a low-motion phase of the body organ (11) in each X-ray position (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{16}) required for the formation of the three-dimensional image data set, and to use the projection data sets (D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{16}) acquired during the low-motion phase for the formation of the three-dimensional image data set.

Fig. 1

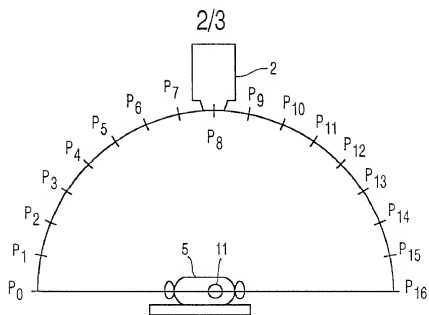


FIG. 2

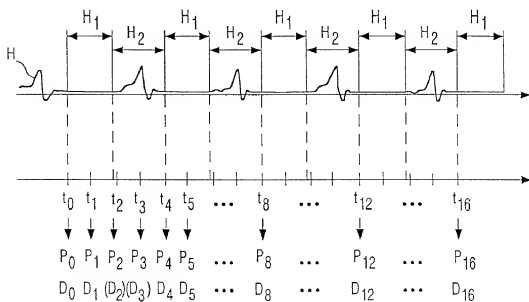


FIG. 3

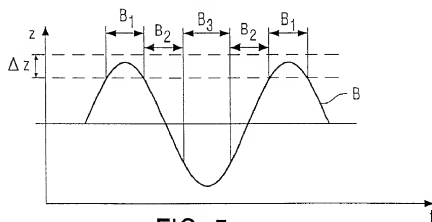


FIG. 5

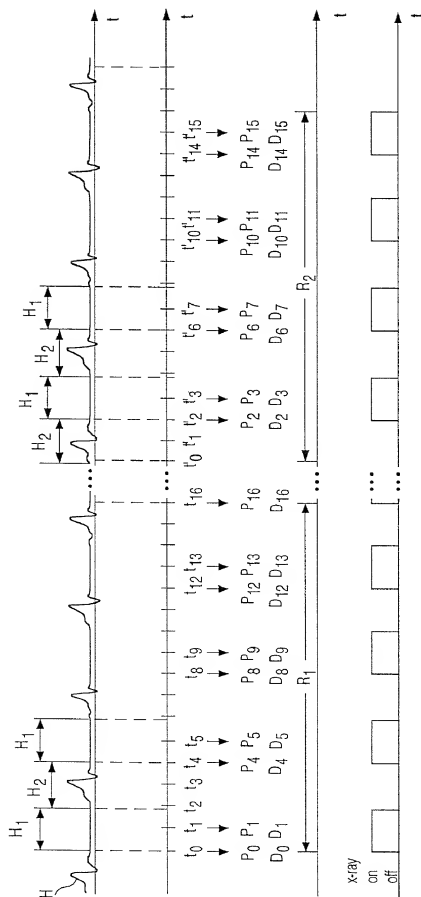


FIG. 4

DECLARATION and POWER OF ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.:

PHD 99.130 US

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **"Method of and device for the acquisition of a three-dimensional image data set of a periodically organ of the body"** the specification of which (check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by the amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APP. NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (DATE, MONTH, YEAR)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
Germany	19946092.2	25 September 1999	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR UNITED STATES APPLICATION(S)

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

Jack E. Haken, Reg. No. 26,902

Michael E. Marion, Reg. No. 32,266

Edward Blocker, Reg. No. 30,245

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: Corporate Patent Counsel; U.S. Philips Corporation; 580 white Plains Road; Tarrytown, NY 10591	DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: (name and telephone No.) (914) 332-0222
--	--

Dated:		Inventor's Signature:	
Full Name of in Inventor	Last Name RASCHE	First Name Volker	Middle Name
Residence & Citizenship	City Hamburg	State of Foreign Country Germany	Country of Citizenship Germany
Post Office Address	Street Friedrichshulder Weg 63E	City D-22547 Hamburg	State of Country Germany
			Zip Code
Dated:		Inventor's Signature:	
Full Name of in Inventor	Last Name GRAB	First Name Michael	Middle Name
Residence & Citizenship	City Hamburg	State of Foreign Country Germany	Country of Citizenship Germany
Post Office Address	Street Albertine-Assor-Strasse 8E	City D-22457 Hamburg	State of Country Germany
			Zip Code

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

Volker Rasche et al.

PHD 99,130

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

METHOD OF AND DEVICE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE DATA SET OF A PERIODICALLY ORGAN OF THE BODY

Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATES

Sir:

The undersigned Attorney of Record hereby revokes all prior appointments (if any) of Associate Attorney(s) or Agent(s) in the above-captioned case and appoints:

JOHN F. VODOPIA

Reg. 36,299

c/o U.S. PHILIPS CORPORATION, Intellectual Property Department, 580 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591, his Associate Attorney(s)/Agent(s) with all the usual powers to prosecute the above-identified application and any division or continuation thereof, to make alterations and amendments therein, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THIS APPLICATION AND THE LETTERS PATENT WHEN GRANTED SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE UNDERSIGNED ATTORNEY OF RECORD.

Respectfully,



Michael E. Marion, Reg. 32,266
Attorney of Record

Dated at Tarrytown, New York
on 22 September, 2000.

